



STATE OF INDIANA
INDIANA STATE EXCISE POLICE

302 W. Washington Street
IGCS, Room E-114
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Corporal Travis Thickstun
Public Information Officer
Telephone 317-232-2469
tthickstun@atc.in.gov
www.in.gov/iseip

For Immediate Release

Excise Officer Dies after Battle with Cancer

INDIANAPOLIS (Sept. 10) – Indiana State Excise Police Sergeant Leslie Noble Stratton of Holton, Ind., died this morning at Community Hospital East in Indianapolis after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Sgt. Stratton joined the Indiana State Excise Police on Jan. 8, 1979, after having completed an internship with the agency as a student at Vincennes University, from which he earned his associates degree. Sgt. Stratton graduated from the Indiana State Excise Police Recruit School on Jan. 28, 1979, and Indiana Law Enforcement Academy on Oct. 5, 1979.

As a new officer, Sgt. Stratton was initially assigned to the Vincennes district before transferring to the Seymour area, where he served the remainder of his career. Sgt. Stratton was promoted to Sergeant at the Seymour district on Nov. 1, 1987, after having served in that role on an interim basis beginning on Oct. 9, 1986.

Sgt. Stratton graduated from Jac-Cen-Del Junior-Senior High School in Osgood, Ind., in 1973, when he joined the United States Army. Sgt. Stratton served in the U.S. Army from 1973-1976, during which time he was also promoted to Sergeant with the U.S. Army.

Sgt. Stratton received the department's Educator of the Year award in 1997.

"It is with heavy hearts that we bid farewell to our friend and colleague, Les," Superintendent Matt Strittmatter said. "During my time as superintendent, I found Les to be a man of few words; however, when he spoke, he offered much wisdom. This is the result of his experience as an excise officer and his dedication to doing his part to ensure the safety of Indiana citizens. He will be greatly missed by the department, and our heartfelt condolences and prayers go out to his family."

Sgt. Stratton is survived by his wife, Vernice (Owens) Stratton, of Holton, Ind.; his son, Roger Stratton and his wife, Rhonda Stratton, of Holton, Ind.; his daughter, Jennifer Nicholson, and her husband, Hank Nicholson, of Versailles, Ind.; and his daughter-in-law, Katherine Hiatt. He was preceded in death by his son, Scott Stratton, in 2003.

Sgt. Stratton is also survived by six grandchildren: Emmett Stratton, Levi Stratton, Emma Hiatt, Lanie Nicholson, Lucie Nicholson and Clint Nicholson.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

